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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/826,416	04/16/2004	Michael A. Pouchak	H0005553-9952(1161.113310	9859

128 7590 04/19/2007  
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EXAMINER
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BOLES, DEREK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3749

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/19/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/826,416	Applicant(s) POUCHAK ET AL.	
	Examiner Derek S. Boles	Art Unit 3749	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 16-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 7, 8 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bartels (4,716,858). See 86, fig. 4 and col. 6, lines 25-64. Bartels shows in col. 6, line 45 that a firing rate control mode means 55 provides a low fire hold operation at the outset of the operation of the device. This low fire hold will be maintained for a fixed time period, unless the pressure increases or decreases above or below  $P_{Hi}$  or  $P_{Lo}$ .  $P_{Hi}$  or  $P_{Lo}$  is considered the predefined conditions meeting the limitations of the claims. Regarding claims 2 and 3, see col. 6, line 50.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim(s) 11-14 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartels in view of Pouchak (6,536,678). Bartels discloses all of the limitations of the claim(s) except for the boiler system comprising multiple stages. Pouchak discloses the presence of a boiler system comprising multiple stages. See fig. 6. Hence, one skilled in the art would find it

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obvious to modify the system of Bartels to include the boiler system comprising multiple stages of Pouchak for the purpose of energy conservation.

Claim(s) 4, 5, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartels in view of Pouchak. Bartels discloses all of the limitations of the claim(s) except for positioning a bypass valve for avoiding condensation. Pouchak discloses the presence of positioning a bypass valve for avoiding condensation. See claim 6. Hence, one skilled in the art would find it obvious to modify the system of Bartels to include the positioning a bypass valve for avoiding condensation of Pouchak for the purpose of heat exchanger protection.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartels in view of Pouchak. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provided an inlet temperature sensor for a secondary heat exchanger, since it has been held that mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced. In *re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).

Regarding claims 1-20, it has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. In *re Hutchison*, 69 USPQ 138.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 8/8/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding arguments that Bartels does not "appear" to disclose maintaining the first firing rate for a period of time unless a predefined condition occurs during the period of time. It is submitted that the above recitations more clearly point out where Bartels indeed discloses maintaining the first firing rate for a period of time unless a predefined condition occurs during

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the period of time. Regarding claim 6, the duplication rejection is predicated on the fact that claim 6 is merely providing an additional temperature sensor. Regarding claims 11-20, arguments were persuasive in regards to the multiple stages and this is reflected above.

***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The provided references are representative of the state of the art that is applicable to the applicant's invention. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Derek S. Boles at (571) 272-4872 or supervisory patent examiner Kenneth Rinehart at (571) 272-4881.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

D.S.B.

  
**DEREK S. BOLES**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**